

## **VETERANS NEWS**

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### **Secretary Of Veterans Affairs To Meet With Local Veterans And Employers With Jobs Openings At State's "Honor A Hero, Hire A Vet" Job And Resource Fair**

**EVENT:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson will be meeting with local veterans and employers ready to hire at an "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Job and Resource Fair being held at West Hills College in Lemoore, CA. This event is a unique opportunity for local veterans, National Guard members, and reserve troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to meet with employers who are ready to hire. In this one-stop shop, veterans also can learn about career opportunities, education and training options, apprenticeships, and other services available from public and private agencies. The fair is free and open to all.

**DATE:** Thursday, May 1, 2008

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**WHO:** More than 65 companies with job openings to fill, and representatives from state and local agencies and private service organizations. This event is sponsored by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department (EDD). Partners include the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and the California Community Colleges (CCC). These agencies provide veterans with the resources and services they need to transition from military to civilian life, and from military jobs to new careers.

**PLACE:** West Hills College  
555 College Avenue  
Lemoore, CA 93245

**BACKGROUND:** California is home to 2 million veterans, the most in the nation. Veterans' military training provides them with a wide range of technical skills, teamwork and leadership experience. The employment picture is good for veterans of earlier wars, but not as bright for newer veterans. Last year, the estimated unemployment rate for veterans 20 to 24 years old was 14.3%, up from 12.4% in 2006 and far higher than the 8.8% rate for non-veterans in that age group. This

"Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Job and Resource Fair is one in a series of 11 events that are part of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's initiative to expand employment and education opportunities for California's veterans.

Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases, advisories, and newsletters are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via email from [Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).